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WEST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR THE  
YEAR 1947.

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HENRY ROGER, M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,  
*County Medical Officer.*



*County Health Department,*

*Bury St. Edmunds.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.*

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of the County of West Suffolk for the year 1947.*

*Since taking up my duties as your Medical Officer of Health ten years ago, many changes have taken place in the Public Health Service. Some of these have been necessitated by war-time and post-war conditions.*

*The greatest advance has probably been made in the tuberculosis service. Advantage was taken of the upgrading of White Lodge, the Newmarket Public Assistance Institution, into a well equipped acute general Hospital to make it the centre of the Council's tuberculosis service. The Ministry of Health allowed over 40 beds to be allocated for in-patient treatment, and the small ill equipped sanatorium on Rougham Hill, was closed. Gradually the out-patient or dispensary work of diagnosis, treatment and supervision has been transferred from Westgate House, where neither X-ray nor laboratory facilities were available, to the fully equipped out-patient department of White Lodge Emergency Hospital, although it was necessary to provide transport in most of the cases. Dr. Arden Jones, a physician on the staff of White Lodge, has been in clinical charge of both in-patients and out-patients throughout this time. During this time the Government introduced the system whereby allowances were paid to curable cases who gave up employment in order to undergo treatment.*

*Entirely new ground was broken in 1941 when the mass immunisation of children against diphtheria was first introduced in this county. Response from parents was unexpectedly good, particularly so when arrangements could be made for children to be immunised with the minimum of effort on the part of the parent.*

*Another important development took place in 1946 when, a few months before the publication of the Curtis Report, the Council decided to set up a sub-committee of members of the Public Health and Public Assistance and Education Committees to deal in uniform manner with all children for whom the Council had responsibility, and the Public Health Department has, in consequence, been much more concerned with these children during the last two years.*

*Under the Blind Persons Act, 1938, the County Council assumed the responsibility for domiciliary assistance to blind persons. The Welfare work amongst blind people has been considerably developed, and a second home-teacher was appointed.*

*Ten years ago five or six maternity beds were available at the three County Council's institutions. Few women were delivered there, and the children were usually illegitimate. Housing shortage*

*and the difficulty in securing domestic help made it essential that provision for institutional maternity accommodation should be increased, and thirty beds have been provided in accommodation suitably adapted and equipped for the purpose at White Lodge, St. Mary's, and Walnuttree Hospitals. During 1947 29.2% of the total births in the county took place at one or other of these hospitals.*

*At the two former hospitals the women are in the care of the specialist obstetricians on the staff of White Lodge and the West Suffolk General Hospital. Ante-natal clinics have been set up at the three hospitals concerned.*

*Another notable advance was made in 1946 when, in conjunction with the East Suffolk County Council and the Borough of Ipswich, a full-time Venereal Diseases Officer was appointed.*

*Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the provision of all forms of hospital and specialist treatment will be the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Boards and the County Council, being freed from its duties with regard to institutional midwifery and the treatment of tuberculosis and venereal diseases, will thereby be enabled to devote more attention to such duties as social medicine and the prevention of illness which come more particularly within its sphere. During the year schemes were prepared for carrying out the services for which the Council will assume responsibility.*

*Throughout the year, as in former years, I have been fortunate in receiving the encouragement of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, and the loyal co-operation of the Members of the Public Health Staff.*

*I have the honour to be,*

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient servant,*

**HENRY ROGER,**  
*County Medical Officer of Health.*





### Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37.1
Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	33.2
Illegitimate per 1,000 illegitimate births	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	88.6
Death from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	207

### Birth Rate.

The Birth Rate was 20.8 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 19.1 for 1946. The Birth Rate for England and Wales was 20.5.

### Death Rate.

The Death Rate was 13.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population as compared with 12.7 for 1946 and 12.0 for England and Wales.

### Infant Mortality.

The Infant Mortality Rate was 37.1 per 1,000 live births as compared with 26.1 for 1946. The corresponding figure for England and Wales was 41.

### Zymotic Deaths.

Nine zymotic deaths were returned as follows : Typhoid, 1 ; Cerebro-Spinal Fever, 3 ; Whooping Cough, 2 ; Acute Polio-myelitis, 2 ; Acute Infantile Encephalitis, 1.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### HOSPITALS.

The general provision for hospital services has remained unchanged during the year.

In August, to relieve the pressure on orthopaedic beds in other hospitals in East Anglia, two wards at White Lodge Emergency Hospital, Newmarket, were set aside for the reception of patients paralysed by polio-myelitis. At the request of the Ministry of Health the Hospital also undertook to send out to any other hospital in the region, whenever called upon to do so, two nurses experienced in the use of an "iron lung." Two such applications were received, and on each occasion the assistance asked for was supplied forthwith.

In my Report last year, I referred to the care of the chronic sick, and this question was considered by the Committee concerned. As a result, the practice of arranging for chronic patients in the Public Assistance Institutions to be referred to specialists when it is considered that there is any possibility of benefit being derived has been extended, and it was agreed that the services of a physio-therapist should be made available at Walnuttree Hospital, Sudbury. By these means it is hoped that the condition of some of these people, who would otherwise be condemned to be bed-ridden for the rest of their lives, may be at any rate ameliorated, and that by stimulating the interest of the nurses, the general nursing standard will be raised. Efforts have also been made within the hospitals to improve the amenities for these patients.

An agreement was made with the Cambridgeshire County Council for the joint use of the Isolation Hospital at Oakington by the Cambridgeshire, West Suffolk and Huntingdonshire County Councils in the event of cases of small-pox occurring in any of these counties. Fortunately up to the present there has been no necessity to make use of these arrangements.

One of the most pressing problems in the hospitals is still the shortage of nurses. Certain wards in White Lodge Emergency Hospital, Newmarket, had to be closed for this reason. The following measures have been taken to overcome the difficulties and to attract women into the service.

#### (i) *The Training of Nurses.*

Application was made to the General Nursing Council for the recognition of White Lodge Emergency Hospital as a training school for nurses. An inspection was made of the hospital, and the General Nursing Council agreed to recognise it, provided that certain alterations and improvements were carried out in the nurses' quarters.

#### (ii) *The Training of Assistant Nurses.*

The Council's scheme for training assistant nurses, as outlined in my Report for last year, has proved a success, and has helped to some small extent towards solving the problem of the nursing shortage. Since the scheme was started in 1944, nineteen candidates have completed the training and become enrolled as Assistant Nurses under the General Nursing Council. Eleven pupils are still in training.

In October, 1946, the General Nursing Council recognised St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury, as a component Training School for Assistant Nurses. During 1947, arrangements were made for the nurses accepted for training by that hospital to receive part of their training in Walnuttree Hospital, Sudbury, under the tuition of the Tutor-Sister.



At Walnuttree Hospital a number of full-time and part-time orderlies, who for various reasons cannot train under the General Nursing Council Scheme, were employed, and arrangements were made for them to attend courses of lectures. The Matron reported that with patience and teaching these people became useful members of the staff, and eased the task of the sisters and nurses.

*(iii) The Employment of Part-time Nurses.*

A scheme for the employment of part-time nurses in the hospitals administered by the County Council was also instituted and has proved invaluable in supplementing the depleted staffs. These part-time nurses include trained nurses, enrolled assistant nurses, nursing attendants and nursing orderlies.

The organisation of the scheme, which especially in its initial stages, involved a considerable amount of work in connection with a publicity campaign and in the interviewing of candidates, was undertaken, on a voluntary basis, by Miss Penly Cooper who resigned her appointment as Superintendent Health Visitor and Supervisor of Midwives in July, 1947.

**CARE OF THE AGED AND INFIRM.**

This subject to which I referred, also in my Report for last year, was considered by the Committee. It was decided that, as a short-term policy, a suitable house should be acquired as a hostel for the aged and that consideration should be given also to the acquisition of sufficient land adjacent to it upon which future development could take place, and that as a long term policy consideration should be given to the development of a settlement for the aged. Difficulty was being experienced in finding a suitable house for use as a hostel when Mr. G. C. Gibson, made the very generous gift of Exning House, Newmarket, for this purpose, together with a cheque for £10,000. When the necessary adaptations have been carried out, this house will provide accommodation for a number of old people, but efforts are being made to obtain, in addition, buildings suitably situated in other parts of the county.

The Housing Authorities have been asked to consider the inclusion of housing for old people in their housing schemes.

**MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.**

At the end of the year there were three registered Nursing Homes, with a total of eight beds for maternity cases and two for other cases.

Four applications for exemption from registration were received from voluntary hospitals and a sanatorium. These were all granted.

**NURSING IN THE HOME.**

Nursing in the home, as well as the domiciliary midwifery service, was carried out by the West Suffolk County Nursing Association, as in past years.

Affiliated to the County Nursing Association were 37 District Associations employing 45 nurses as under :—

Queen's Nurse Midwives	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Nurse Midwives S.R.N.	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Nurse Midwives general trained	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Nurse Midwives	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Assistant Nurse ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

The following are the details of the nurses' work :—

Number of Midwifery cases	..	..	..	..	..	..	675
Number of Maternity cases	..	..	..	..	..	..	324
Number of General cases	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,804
Total number of Nursing Visits paid..	..	..	..	..	..	..	76,920

The West Suffolk County Nursing Association celebrated its Jubilee during the year. During the fifty years of its existence, the Association has rendered to the community a very valuable service, which, thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of its Committee, officers and voluntary helpers, has been developed to cover the whole county. The County Council were anxious that the Association with its experience and local knowledge should continue to function under the new health service, and negotiations between these two bodies were opened during the year with this end in view. It is gratifying to know that the Council is assured of the co-operation of the Association under the new regime.

**AMBULANCE FACILITIES.**

As in previous years, the main ambulance service in the County for non-infectious cases was provided through the British Red Cross Society and a voluntary Ambulance Society at Haverhill. Early in the year a suggestion was made by the British Red Cross Society that the County Council should give some financial aid towards maintaining the service, and a conference was arranged between the County Director of the British Red Cross Society and representatives of the County Council, when the position was reviewed. It was agreed that, with an additional ambulance and full-time driver at Sudbury, the existing service would be reasonably adequate, and the County Council decided to make a grant of £250 to the Society.

The condition of the two ambulances, formerly used by the Civil Defence organisation, stationed at White Lodge Emergency Hospital, Newmarket, became unsatisfactory, and the British Red Cross Society lent the Council a "Utilecon" van for use in connection with that hospital. A garage in Newmarket was purchased for housing the White Lodge Hospital ambulances.

Negotiations were entered into with the British Red Cross Society and the Haverhill Ambulance Society for them to act as agents of the County Council under the Council's scheme for the provision of an ambulance service under the National Health Service Act.

The Hospital Car Service, under the auspices of the British Red Cross Society, continued to operate throughout the County, and it is hoped that this will form a basis for a car service under the Council's new Ambulance Scheme.

An ambulance, formerly used by the Civil Defence organisation, and stationed at St. Mary's Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds, was used, as previously, for the conveyance of cases of scabies to and from the scabies clinic at St. Mary's Hospital. An agreement was made with the Bury St. Edmunds Town Council for this ambulance also to be used for the conveyance of infectious cases within the Borough. In other parts of the County, transport for infectious cases was provided by the Infectious Diseases hospitals concerned.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES.

No change was made in the facilities nor in the arrangements made for carrying out the work for which the County Council is responsible.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.

### MIDWIFERY.

#### (a) *Domiciliary Service.*

The domiciliary midwifery service was, as before, undertaken by the County Nursing Association subsidised by the County Council, and the Association has agreed, as already stated, to co-operate with the County Council in operating this service under the National Health Service Act, 1946.

The Chief Health Visitor to the County Council and Supervisor of Midwives has always acted as Secretary and Superintendent to the County Nursing Association. In July, 1947, Miss Penly Cooper who held this appointment, and who during her twenty-one years' service had been largely responsible for the development of the service so that it covered the whole County, resigned. In view of the increased amount of work undertaken by this officer, and the further increases contemplated under the National Health Service Act, she was replaced by two officers, a supervisor of midwives who was appointed Secretary and Superintendent to the County Nursing Association, and a Superintendent Health Visitor.

The number of midwives practising at the end of the year in the area served by the Council was sixty-eight. In 1947 they attended as midwives one thousand six hundred and eighty-six cases, while in five hundred and eighty-six cases they acted as Maternity Nurses, there being a medical practitioner in attendance. Medical help was called by midwives in a total of two hundred and twenty-one cases, which represents a percentage of 31.2 of the domiciliary cases. In one hundred and ninety-four of these cases medical help was sought in respect of the mother, and in twenty-seven cases in respect of the baby.

The County Nursing Association arranged, as opportunity arose, for midwives who did not possess the certificate in analgesia to take the course and six nurses obtained the certificate during the year. The necessary apparatus for the administration of analgesia by these nurses was purchased by the District Nursing Associations concerned through the National Birthday Trust Fund.

At the end of the year the number of Midwives qualified to administer analgesia was nineteen.

Sphygmomanometers and Binaural stethoscopes for ante-natal work were supplied to four domiciliary midwives. It is hoped that all the district midwives will be supplied with this apparatus in due course.

The arrangements for an ante-natal and post-natal service, through medical practitioners, and for a consultative service were continued.

A total of three hundred and sixty-five ante-natal examinations including fifteen second examinations were made by medical practitioners in domiciliary cases. This figure represents 51.6 per cent. of the total domiciliary midwifery cases taken by the midwives during 1947. Ninety-six post-natal examinations were made during the period.

#### (b) *Institutional Maternity Accommodation.*

The number of women who were admitted to institutions with maternity accommodation during the year was as follows :—

St. Mary's Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds	..	..	..	..	346
Walnutree Hospital, Sudbury	..	..	..	..	74
White Lodge Emergency Hospital, Newmarket	..	..	..	..	248
West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds	..	..	..	..	303
St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury	..	..	..	..	141



The shortage of midwives made it increasingly difficult to keep this accommodation in use and the Maternity Ward at Walnuttree Hospital had to be closed for three weeks during the year because no midwife was available.

### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF SPECIAL NATURE.**

Fifteen cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified during the year, thirteen occurring in institutions. The other two cases were removed to hospitals. There was one case of puerperal fever, which was nursed at home.

There were two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, both of which responded rapidly to treatment. In neither case was the sight impaired.

### **THE CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.**

Under the arrangements made with the St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich Diocesan Moral Welfare Association for the care of illegitimate children, eighty-three cases were referred to that Association during the year.

### **THE CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.**

The cards used for the notification of births provide space for stating whether an infant is premature or not. In the case of premature infants the health-visitor reports on the child's condition at the end of four weeks. Sixty-one premature births, thirteen of which were still-births, occurred during the year. Forty babies survived after the first month.

### **INFANT WELFARE CLINICS.**

The sixteen Infant Welfare Clinics maintained and staffed by the County Council have been continued throughout the year.

A total of 4,314 attendances were made by children attending these centres ; of these 2,427 attendances were made by children under one year of age.

The number of children who attended for the first time was 666, and this number included 550 children under the age of one year.

### **HEALTH VISITING.**

The work is still hampered by the shortage of health visitors. It was decided therefore to continue to offer scholarships of £52 each for the health visitors' training to State Registered Nurses who would undertake to serve in the County for a minimum of two years after obtaining the Health Visitor's Certificate. At the end of the year an untrained assistant to the school nurses was appointed to undertake routine cleanliness inspections in schools, and so enable the health visitors to devote more time to work amongst pre-school children.

The total number of visits paid was 9,010. This included 2,395 visits to children under one year of age, and 6,615 to children between the ages of one and five.

### **ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT.**

Orthopaedic clinics for school and pre-school children were held twice monthly at the West Suffolk General Hospital, once monthly at St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury, and since February, 1947, monthly at White Lodge Hospital, Newmarket.

Children attending the clinics at the West Suffolk General Hospital and White Lodge Hospital found to require in-patient treatment were admitted to those hospitals respectively ; those referred for in-patient treatment from the clinic at St. Leonard's Hospital were admitted to Ipswich Hospitals, under the care of the orthopaedic surgeon in charge of the clinic at Sudbury.

### **CHILDREN IN THE CARE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL.**

As mentioned in the Annual Report for 1946, a Children's Sub-Committee consisting of representatives of the Public Health and Public Assistance Committee and of the Education Committee, was formed on 3rd June, 1946, and to this stand referred all matters concerning the children in the care of the County Council.

The benefits of this policy became increasingly obvious during 1947 and it was felt that the most important step to ensure the proper nurture of these children had been taken when the Council decided to appoint a senior officer on the staff of the School and County Medical Officer, to be known for the time being as the Children's Welfare Officer, who, having no other duties, should be responsible for much of the work of the Children's Officer envisaged in the Curtis Report.

The County Medical Officer visited the Children's Department of the Home Office for a consultation regarding the appointment and the applications which had been received, but various delays occurred and it was not until 12th November that Miss Ailsa Pank was appointed to take up duty on 1st January, 1948.

Meanwhile the work was carried on as heretofore by various members of the staff of the Education, Public Health and Public Assistance departments, in addition to their other duties.

The number of children received into and leaving the care of the Council during the year was as follows :—

Children received :—

Admitted to the Children's Homes—

Short stay cases	..	..	..	..	..	74	
Long stay	..	..	..	..	..	19	93
Received into private homes with view to adoption	..	..	..	..	..		17
Placed in private homes by voluntary agencies or private persons (under 9 years of age)							21
							131

Children leaving :—

Returned to care of relatives or friends	..	..	..	..	..	..	87
Adopted	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Attained the age of 18 years	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Attained the age of 9 years (children " taken for reward ")	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Left the County (chargeable to other Authorities)	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Private arrangements made for residual evacuee	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
							132

At the end of the year the number of children for whom the Children's Sub-Committee was responsible under various Acts, was as follows :—

Poor Law Act, 1930.	" Short stay " cases	..	..	..	..	18	
	" Long Term " "	..	..	..	..	96	114
Public Health Act, 1936	..	..	..	..	..	..	41
Children and Young Persons Act, 1933	..	..	..	..	..	..	28
Adoption of Children Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Ministry of Health Circular 225/45 (Residual Evacuees)	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
							194

COUNTY TUBERCULOSIS SERVICE.

GENERAL STATISTICAL FACTS.

One hundred cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1947 ; this is an increase of sixteen on the corresponding figure for 1946 and is an increase of three on that for 1945.

The new cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year numbered twenty-one, which is a decrease of fifteen on the figure for the previous year.

During the year a total of thirty-four deaths was recorded, thirty being pulmonary cases and four being non-pulmonary cases. In the previous year the total deaths were thirty-five comprising twenty-six pulmonary cases and nine non-pulmonary cases.

The number of notified cases on the Dispensary Register at the end of the year was three hundred and sixty-three which is an increase of twenty-six on the figure for the previous year.

The number of cases on the Notification Register at the end of the year was four hundred and seventeen which is an increase of fifteen on the figure for the previous year.

I submit herewith a Table of New Cases reported in 1947, together with a summary of the total deaths from tuberculosis in the area during the year.

NEW CASES AND DEATHS DURING 1947.

New Cases.					Deaths.								
Age Periods.			Pulmonáry.		Non-Pulmonary.		Age Periods.			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.				M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..	—	—	—	—	0	..	..	—	—	—	—
1	..	..	—	—	—	1	1	..	..	—	—	—	—
5	..	..	1	2	4	5							
10	..	..	—	3	2	—	5	..	..	—	—	—	—
15	..	..	2	5	—	1	15	..	..	5	11	2	1
20	..	..	17	14	1	—							
25	..	..	6	10	2	2							
35	..	..	11	4	1	1	45	..	..	6	3	—	—
45	..	..	5	6	—	1							
55	..	..	6	3	—	—	65	..	..	3	2	1	—
65 and upwards			4	1	—	—							
Totals	..		52	48	10	11	Totals	..		14	16	3	1



<i>In-Patient Treatment :—</i>						<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
Admissions to White Lodge Hospital	..	..	..	..	..	41	48
Discharges from White Lodge Hospital	..	..	..	..	..	42	46
Admissions to " Other Hospitals "	..	..	..	..	..	21	12
Discharges from " Other Hospitals "	..	..	..	..	..	24	13

*Out-Patient Treatment :—*

Number of attendances at White Lodge Hospital for—

(i) Diagnosis, Assessment and Supervision	..	557
(ii) X-Ray only	.. .. .	134

Number of Patients who attended White Lodge Hospital for Artificial

Pneumothorax Refills	.. .. .	45
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Total number of Refills .. .. . 665 (approximately)

Number of Patients who attended " Other Hospitals " for Artificial

Pneumothorax Refills	.. .. .	5
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Total Number of Refills .. .. . 57

Number of attendances at " Other Hospitals " for X-Ray only .. 25

Number of Contacts examined	.. .. .	<i>Adults.</i> 29	<i>Children.</i> 24
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In addition all contacts of school age are seen at the periodic school medical inspections.

## APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

During the year, 19 Males and 21 Females received the allowance.

## VENEREAL DISEASES.

*V.D. Officer : DR. S. M. LAIRD.*

The premises and sessional hours of the V.D. Clinic at Westgate House, Bury St. Edmunds were unchanged in 1947. The work of the Clinic during 1947 is summarised below :—

	<i>New Cases.</i>		<i>Total number of Cases Treated.</i>		<i>Number of Attendances.</i>
	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	
Syphilis ..	4	6	33	37	692
Gonorrhoea ..	7	11	18	17	179
Non-Venereal Conditions	33	30	37	35	238
Totals ..	44	47	88	89	1,109

### Diagnosis.

Specimens examined microscopically for gonorrhoea by the V.D. Officer totalled 216 and 256 specimens of blood were sent to an approved laboratory at Cambridge. In addition, a specimen of blood was taken from each of 276 expectant mothers to exclude maternal syphilis and thereby eliminate the possibility of inherited syphilis in their offspring.

### Treatment.

Methods of treatment were similar to those used during 1946. Ten out-patients received penicillin at the Clinic whilst those requiring in-patient treatment were admitted to the East Suffolk and Ipswich Hospital, Ipswich.

### Case Finding and Case Holding.

All new cases are persuaded whenever possible to get their source of infection and any other contacts to report for examination and whatever treatment may be found necessary. Again, great efforts are made to persuade patients to attend long enough to complete treatment and adequate observation and, where necessary, defaulting patients are sent a written reminder or are actually visited. These efforts meet with considerable success and in this work, as well as in the routine nursing duties of the Clinic, the services of our health visitor, Miss B. W. Collins, are of great value.

### Summary.

The number of new cases registered in 1947 shows a welcome reduction as compared with 1946 and the later war years. It is anticipated that this decline will continue during 1948 as regards cases of early syphilis and gonorrhoea. The number of persons seeking advice, reassurance or treatment of so-called non-venereal conditions continues to provide a large proportion of the work of the Clinic.



Cases Attending other V.D. Centres.

In addition 22 new cases attended the Clinic at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and 22 the Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital, the particulars being as follows :—

Number of New Cases.				
	<i>Syphilis.</i>	<i>Gonorrhoea.</i>	<i>Non-Venereal Conditions.</i>	<i>Total Attendances.</i>
Addenbrooke's Hospital ..	2	8	12	212
Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital .. ..	4	5	13	77

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

(a) Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1947.

	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>						<i>Deaths.</i>
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	92	—
Whooping Cough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	114	2
Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	933	—
Diphtheria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	*16	—
Typhoid and Para-typhoid .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	20	1
Acute Pneumonia .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	32	51
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	14	—
Dysentery .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	14	—
Puerperal Pyrexia and Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	16	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	2	—
Acute Anterior Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	17	2
Acute Infantile Encephalitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3

\*Diagnosis in many cases not confirmed.

Polio-myelitis.

In common with the rest of the country, West Suffolk reported a rise in the number of cases of acute anterior polio-myelitis occurring during the second half of the year.

Of the seventeen cases that were notified three were pre-school children and eight were school children. In some of these cases paralysis did not supervene and the diagnosis was regarded as unproved. Against this must be set the undoubted fact that many such cases occurred and recovered, some of them almost certainly due to the Polio-myelitis virus, but were never notified.

During the acute stage of the disease six cases were admitted to the West Suffolk General Hospital, and most of the others to various Isolation Hospitals. Arrangements for the prolonged treatment of cases with residual paralysis were made at White Lodge Hospital, where the Ministry of Health set up a special unit for patients coming mostly from East Anglia, but also from places as far afield as London and Coventry. Four West Suffolk cases were admitted.

Two deaths occurred, one of an adult, and one of a pre-school child of very low mentality.

Typhoid and Para-typhoid.

Two small epidemics occurred during the year, one of typhoid fever and one of para-typhoid. Full investigations were made in each case by the District Medical Officer concerned as to the source of infection, and precautions against the spread of infection were taken. In one case the source of infection was suspected to be a bed of lettuces watered by a pond which was contaminated by the contents of a pail closet from a house inhabited by a carrier, and in the other, cream buns supplied in a restaurant outside the County.

(b) Infectious Diseases and School Attendances.

No school was closed during the year on account of infectious disease although at 17 different schools attendances below 60 per cent. of the possible attendances for the week were recorded as the result of measles (22 weeks), whooping cough (10 weeks), measles and whooping cough together (4 weeks), and chicken-pox (6 weeks).

(c) Treatment of Scabies.

The Scabies Clinic set up at St. Mary's Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds, continued to function, and free transport was provided.

The following patients were treated :—

Pre-school children .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
School children .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	108
Adults .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	64

A gradual decrease in the number of cases was noted during the year.

(d) **Immunisation against Diphtheria.**

Immunisation of school children and pre-school children was carried out in the schools and clinics. Where no infant welfare clinic was available, the parents of all pre-school children over the age of eight months in the neighbourhood, who had not been immunised, were invited to take their children to the school for inoculation when the Medical Officer visited.

During the year 1,048 pre-school children, 199 school children who for some reason had not been protected previously were immunised, and 1,153 school children who had been immunised in infancy were given a re-inforcing dose during or about their sixth year.

(e) **Cancer.**

The arrangements for the treatment of patients suffering from Cancer were as in previous years. During the year 207 deaths from Cancer occurred. This number is 13.8 per cent of the total deaths. The following table shows the age distribution :—

*Deaths from Cancer, 1947.*

	0—	1—	5—	15—	45—	65—	Total.
Males	—	—	1	4	38	66	109
Females	—	—	—	5	31	62	98
Totals	—	—	1	9	69	128	207

**BLIND PERSONS ACTS.**

(1) **GENERAL REPORT ON THE SERVICE IN WEST SUFFOLK.**

**Registration.**

There were 210 registered blind persons in the County at the end of the year, the age groups being as follows :—

<i>Age Period.</i>	<i>Age Period.</i>	<i>Age Period.</i>	<i>Age Period.</i>	<i>Age Period.</i>	<i>Age Period.</i>	<i>Age Period.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
0—5	5—16	16—21	21—50	50—65	65—70	Over 70	
—	2	2	20	47	28	111	210

**Home Teachers and Visitors.**

The Home Teachers paid 1,315 visits during the year and gave 37 lessons in Braille and Moon type.

**Institutions.**

Nineteen persons were maintained in Public Assistance Institutions, two in special schools, and five in Institutions for the Mentally Defective.

**Home Workers.**

The arrangement with the Norwich Institution for the Blind for the supervision of the Home Workers in the County is still in force. There were three such workers recognised under the scheme.

**Workshop Workers.**

One person was maintained in an Institution for the Blind, where he was employed in the workshop.

**Other Workers.**

In addition to the recognised “Home Workers,” twelve persons were employed in remunerative occupations as follows :—Basket Worker, 1 ; Boot Repairer, 1 ; Braille Copyist, 1 ; Net-maker, 1 ; Telephonist, 1 ; Wood-worker, 1 ; others, 4 ; in sighted industry, 2.

(2) **DOMICILIARY ASSISTANCE.**

The number of persons in receipt of domiciliary assistance at the end of the year was 62.

(3) **RESIDENTIAL AND HOLIDAY HOME FOR THE BLIND.**

Repairs and alterations were carried out at “Cloncurry,” the house at Felixstowe purchased for use as a residential and holiday home for the blind people from East and West Suffolk, but the house is not yet ready for occupation.

(4) **SOCIAL WELFARE.**

Social gatherings, excursions and holidays for blind people have been arranged, and wireless sets, provided by the British Wireless for the Blind Fund, have been distributed. Special grants and comforts have been supplied through the Voluntary Association, who also maintained the wireless sets.



## RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

The County Council approved the following schemes, though, in each case, they reserved the right to make further observations on receipt of financial details :—

#### Clare Rural District.

A scheme submitted by the District Council for the provision of a water supply for the whole District, in which the District was divided into two areas, a high level area, and a low level area. It was proposed to sink a bore-hole at Great Wrating which would serve the low level area, and at an additional cost, also the high level area, should the negotiations with the Thingoe Rural District Council for the provision of a water supply, as referred to in my Report last year, prove to be unsatisfactory.

#### Bury St. Edmunds.

A scheme submitted by the Town Council for making a two and a half million gallon reservoir at Hawstead.

### SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

The only scheme approved during the year by the County Council was one submitted by the Thingoe Rural District Council for serving a new housing site at Stanningfield, by the construction of a new sewer and a small settlement tank and filter. The plan was capable of extension to serve other properties when connected with the sewer. The County Council reserved the right to make further observations on receipt of financial details.

### HOUSING.

The following is a summary of the houses built in the County during the year, and in construction at the end of the year :—

	<i>Number of houses completed during 1947.</i>		<i>Number of houses under construction on 31-12-47.</i>	
	<i>Council.</i>	<i>Others.</i>	<i>Council.</i>	<i>Others.</i>
Bury St. Edmunds Borough .. ..	80	14	32	—
Hadleigh U.D.C. .. ..	10	3	20	2
Haverhill U.D.C. .. ..	6	—	14	12
Newmarket U.D.C. .. ..	49	5	130	3
Sudbury Borough .. ..	24	6	27	12
Clare R.D.C. .. ..	—	4	58	—
Cosford R.D.C. .. ..	62	10	26	5
Melford R.D.C. .. ..	19	13	87	14
Mildenhall R.D.C. .. ..	55	12	Information not available	
Thedwastre R.D.C. .. ..	37	16	43	4
Thingoe R.D.C. .. ..	80	17	94	14

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### (a) MILK SUPPLY.

Mr. Paterson, the County Milk Officer resigned his appointment on December 16th, 1946, and was appointed as Milk Advisory Officer under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. In view of the impending transfer of the functions of the County Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938 to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, it was decided not to make another appointment, but arrangements were made with the County Advisory Officer of the National Agricultural Advisory Service for Mr. Paterson to carry out the Council's duties with regard to the licencing of producers of designated milk. In this connection he paid 238 visits.

#### Special Designations.

The number of Tuberculin Tested licences is steadily increasing, and there is a tendency on the part of producers to apply for the transfer of their Accredited licences to Tuberculin Tested licences.

##### *Tuberculin Tested Licences.*

During the year 110 licences were issued of which 28 were for the first time. One licence was withdrawn and one was transferred to an Accredited Licence. At the end of the year there were 108 Tuberculin Tested herds on the Register.

The Milk Officer took 15 samples, of which 14 passed the tests.

##### *Accredited Milk Licences.*

During the year 66 licences were issued, 4 of which were for the first time. Eight licences were transferred to Tuberculin Tested licences. At the end of the year there were 58 Accredited Tested herds on the Register.

The Milk Officer took 4 samples, of which 2 passed the tests.



**Veterinary Inspection of Cattle.**

The Veterinary Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has supplied the following statistics of his work during the year :—8,759 animals in Tuberculin Tested herds, 5,282 animals in Accredited herds, and 5,829 animals in non-designated herds were examined. Of these, four were dealt with under the Tuberculosis Order. The statutory tests were carried out on 11,749 animals in Tuberculin Tested and Certified herds, and four re-actors were found.

**(b) FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938, and PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD) REGULATIONS.**

The Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures reports as follows :—

“ Two hundred and ninety-five samples of foodsuffs were taken during the year. Adverse reports were received in respect of 54 of these.

The Table below shows that milk forms the bulk of the samples taken, of these 43 were deficient in fat and eight contained added water. The majority of the fat deficiencies were natural deficiencies and called for no action.

Prosecutions for added water were undertaken against a farmer and a cowman ; both were fined.

A sample of sausage meat was found to contain less meat than prescribed by a Ministry of Food Order. Action was taken against the butcher and he was fined.

A caution was issued in respect of a sample of baking powder found deficient in available carbon dioxide.

**DETAILS OF SAMPLING.**

<i>Nature of Sample.</i>	<i>Number taken.</i>	<i>Number adulterated or not up to standard.</i>
Baking Powder ... ..	2	1
Beer ... ..	1	—
Bi-carbonate of Soda ... ..	1	—
Butter ... ..	2	—
Cocoa and Chocolate ... ..	2	—
Coffee Essences ... ..	1	—
Confectionery (Sugar) ... ..	2	—
Cooking Fat ... ..	2	—
Dessert Powder ... ..	2	—
Fish Paste ... ..	1	—
Flour ... ..	1	—
Flour Mixtures ... ..	4	1
Fruit (Bottled) ... ..	1	—
Gelatine ... ..	1	—
Lemon Powder ... ..	1	—
Lemon Barley Powder ... ..	1	—
Malted Milk ... ..	1	—
Milk ... ..	234	51
Mint ... ..	1	—
Pepper ... ..	4	—
Preserves ... ..	7	—
Salad Oil ... ..	2	—
Sauces and Pickles ... ..	4	—
Sausage Meat ... ..	9	1
Spirits ... ..	1	—
Vinegar ... ..	1	—
Wines ... ..	6	—

Seventy-three samples of milk were taken from the three dairies in West Suffolk heat treating milk. Seventeen failed to comply to the standards laid down.”

Population, Birth Rate, Death Rate, and Deaths classified according to Diseases.

DISTRICT.	Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Typhoid and Parat. Fevers.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Tub. of Resp. Sys.	Other forms of Tuberculosis.	Syphilitic Diseases.	Influenza.	Measles.	Ac. polio-myel and Ac. polio-enceph.	Ac. Inf. enceph.	Cancer.	Diabetes.	Intra-Cranial. Vascular lesions.	Heart Disease.	Other dis. of Circ. System.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia.	Other res. dis.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.	Diarrhea under 2 years.	Appendicitis.	Other Digestive Dis.	Nephritis.	Puer. and Post-Abort. Sepsis.	Other Maternal Causes.	Prem. Birth.	Con. Mal. Birth Inf. Dis.	Suicide.	Road Traffic Accidents.	Other Violent Causes.	All Other Causes.	All Causes.		
<i>Boroughs and Urban Districts—</i>																																							
Bury St. Edmunds	18250	21.2	12.9						4	3	1	3		2		25	5	39	84	9	8	4	1	3	1			7	9			4	5	2	1	6	10	236	
Hadleigh ...	2857	17.5	13.0													3	1	2	13	1	2	1						2	2		2	3		1		4	37		
Haverhill ...	3826	22.0	17.5								1					10	1	6	22		1	3	1	2				1	3			4	1			1	9	67	
Newmarket ...	9019	18.0	12.0						1							26		13	22	6	5	2	1	4				1	1	1	1	1	2	1		2	18	108	
Sudbury ...	6558	21.5	16.9		1				3		2	1				23		12	43	5		2						2	3				2	1		3	8	111	
Totals ...	40510	20.3	11.3	1	1				8	3	4	5		2		87	7	72	184	21	16	12	3	9	1	1	1	13	18		1	11	13	4	2	12	49	559	
<i>Rural Districts—</i>																																							
Clare ...	8273	19.0	15.4				1		2		2					17	1	16	43	5	7	3	4	1				3	2			2	2	1		1	14	127	
Cosford ...	9121	23.0	13.2						5							9		14	44	5	6	7	1				3	7		1		1	2	1	1	13	120		
Melford ...	12050	18.9	16.4		1		1		4						1	26	1	30	61	10	9	6				1	6	5			4	2	2	1	1	6	22	198	
Mildenhall ...	13107	24.6	10.4						2			2				23	2	12	36		4	7				1				5		2	4		2	4	29	136	
Thedwastre ...	8199	18.3	15.2	1					4	1						13		12	50	2	4	7					6	3			1	5	5	2	2	1	11	125	
Thingoe ...	16320	21.1	14.3		1				5							32	3	36	75	11	14	9	2	4			4	4				8	3	1*		7	15	234	
Totals ...	67070	21.1	14.0	1	2		2		22	1	2	2			1	120	7	120	309	33	44	39	7	5	1	2	22	26			1	18	16	7	6	20	104	940	
Grand Totals	107580	20.8	13.9	1	3		2		30	4	6	7		2	1	207	14	192	493	54	60	51	10	14	2	3	35	44		2	29	29	29	11	8	32	153	1499	